

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 SAJ-01 MBFR-04 /123 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:PMU:COL. STOREY:GMD

EXT. 1311 9/11/73

APPROVED BY EA/VN-ROBERT H. WENZEL

EA/P:ARSEN

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P R 112234Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFINGS ON DRV AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN
SVN

1. AT 10 AM 11 SEPTEMBER SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY HELD A BRIEFING FOR 15 TO 20 MEMBERS OF WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS TO ANNOUNCE THE DELIVERY OF THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE DRV EMBASSY IN PARIS AND TO DISPLAY VNAF AND USAF PHOTOGRAPHY DEPICTING THE EXTENT OF DRV REHABILITATION OF 12 AIRFIELDS. BRIEFING APPEARED TO BE WELL RECEIVED. MAJOR QUESTIONS WERE:

- A. WHAT ACTION WILL THE GVN TAKE IF THE DRV FAILS TO DISMANTLE THE AIRFIELDS?
- B. WILL THE GVN REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN RETALIATION?

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- C. IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF AIRFIELDS WITHOUT THEIR

HAVING BEEN USED AN ACTUAL VIOLATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE
PROTOCOLS?

MINISTER THINH RESPONDED IN GENERALITIES AND INDICATED THAT
THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROTEST WAS TO POINT OUT TO THE WORLD
THE CONTINUED DRV VIOLATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE AND THAT NO
MILITARY ACTION IS PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED BY THE GVN BUT
RATHER IT IS HOPED THAT THIS PEACEFUL PROTEST WILL CAUSE THE
DRV TO CEASE THIS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

2. AT 3 PM SEPTEMBER 11 THE DEPARTMENT HELD A FOLLOW-ON
PRESS BRIEFING AT WHICH COPIES OF THE USG PROTEST WERE
DISTRIBUTED AND SIMILAR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAYED TO
APPROXIMATELY 25 MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS.
QUESTIONING WAS RELATIVELY HEAVY AND NBC, CBS, ABC AND
WASHINGTON POST REQUESTED PHOTOGRAPHY FOR USE IN FORTH-
COMING ARTICLES. MOST NEWSMEN SHOWED HEAVY INTEREST IN
THE BUILDUP AT THE KHE SANH AIRFIELD AND PARTICULARLY THE
SA 2 MISSILES. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION, AIR FACILITIES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: PMU:COL. STOREY:GMD
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Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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